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# REPORTS

OF THE

ACCOUNTANTS,

AGENT OF TOWN FARM,

LIQUOR AGENT,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 13, 1860.

MANCHESTER, N. H. :  
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# ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT.

The subscribers, Auditors for the town of Francestown, for the year ending March 13th, 1860, submit the following Report :

## STATEMENT.

Whole amount of taxes assessed,..... \$3,798 92

Appropriated as follows :

State tax,..... \$309 40

County tax,..... 546 44

Town tax,..... 2943 08—\$3,798 92

The Treasurer of the town charges himself with the following sums, viz :

Balance in the treasury last year,..... \$667 97

Cash received of Wm. H. Johnson liquor agent, 1859, ..... 29 74

Cash received of I. Batchelder, agent of town farm for produce sold, &c., ..... 28 29

Cash received of I. Batchelder, overseer of the poor; amount received of County and Nashua for support of paupers,..... 31 76

Cash received of Selectmen for license for exhibition,..... 5 00

Cash received for rail road tax,..... 136 48

Cash received for literary fund,..... 103 52

Amount of town and school taxes, ..... 2891 78

Amount received for non-resident highway taxes,... ..... 3 41—\$3,897 95



The Treasurer credits himself by the following disbursements ordered by the Selectmen :

#### FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,.....	\$62 80
" 2,.....	72 67
" 3,.....	262 23
" 4,.....	92 72
" 5,.....	146 22
" 6,.....	83 38
" 7,.....	72 95
" 8,.....	53 01
" 9,.....	30 27
" 10,.....	43 16
" 11,.....	50 69
" 12,.....	27 72
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	\$997 82

Paid Geo. F. Pettee for services as superintending school committee,....	49 45
Paid H. Brickett school commissioner,.....	17 68
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	\$1,064 95

#### EXTRA REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Paid James H. Ray for bridge Plank and labor,	\$11 11
Isaac Brewster for timber and labor on bridge,	1 00
Henry D. Epps for plank,	15 18
S. F. Butterfield for bridge plank,	12 39
S. L. Felch for plank and labor on bridge,	3 50
N. Woods for timber and labor on bridge,	7 00
E. T. Blanchard for plank and labor on bridge,	14 91
Joseph George for repairing highways,	70
Austin R. Todd labor on road and bridge,	10 05
D. W. Hill plank and timber for bridge,	3 09
George W. Ross do do do	6 50
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	\$85 43

#### NEW HIGHWAYS.

Paid Leonard Spalding land damage,	\$10 00
David Manahan, do do	25 00
Jonathan Patch, do do	90 00
E. Morgan for building new highway,	10 00
David Manahan, do do do	113 77
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	\$248 77

## BREAKING ROADS.

Paid William H. Hopkins for breaking roads,		\$3 20
N. Whitfield,	do do	4 70
J. S. Follansbee,	do do	9 70
A. N. Whitfield,	do do	1 20
K. W. Emerson,	do do	1 40
David Manahan,	do do	1 35
Hiram Peasley,	do do	1 00
Thomas Ordway,	do do	12 35
James Quigley,	do do	5 20
Alexander Wilson,	do do	10 75
William P. Ferren,	do do	4 20
Henry D. Epps,	do do	5 80
James H. Ray,	do do	15 17
Abner B. Woodward,	do do	4 80
Seville Starrett,	do do	6 00
Hirah Gilbert,	do do	12 50
George F. Sleeper,	do do	9 85
Issachar Dodge,	do do	2 48
G. G. Cram,	do do	19 21
S. L. Felch,	do do	6 10
Mark Pettee,	do do	14 85
Levi Kidder,	do do	5 70
Samuel B. Collins,	do do	3 97
Clark W. Burnham,	do do	2 00
Nehemiah Woods,	do do	14 53
E. T. Blanchard,	do do	10 40
Buckman Fairbanks,	do do	5 85
Jesse Woodbury,	do do	5 92
J. W. Cooper,	do do	1 40
John Balch,	do do	4 70
Jonathan Patch,	do do	6 85
Edward Downs,	do do	80
T. P. Rand,	do do	60
E. A. Wilson,	do do	8 55
Charles H. Dodge,	do do	9 40
David Tobie,	do do	78
George B. Woodward,	do do	8 55
Austin R. Todd,	do do	6 55
D. W. Hill,	do do	2 55
Henry Spalding,	do do	1 20
Thomas E. Fisher,	do do	2 40
Wm. Butterfield,	do do	35
Caleb Weston,	do do	2 90
John Weston,	do do	3 70
Daniel Ames,	do do	6 50
A. J. Dodge,	do do	5 40
S. P. Newton,	do do	3 90
Geo. W. Ross,	do do	3 70

## SUPPORT OF PAUPERS OFF THE FARM.

Paid I. Batchelder, Overseer of the Poor, as follows :

for the support of Harrison Marshall, (Unity,) .....	\$14 82
of James Foot, (Nashua,) .....	9 50
of John Foot jr, do .....	2 00
of Abram Hodgman, (County,) .....	2 50
of Stearns Hutchinson's family, .....	44 06
of medical attendance for do .....	14 17
of Ira Brown's family, ....	60 18
of widow Mary Lewis family, .....	22 50
of Daniel Morse's family, .....	9 00
of Leonard Morse's family, .....	9 07
of widow L. Pond, .....	20 00
of widow Clark, .....	10 00
of James Searle, .....	1 45
for expenses out of town on pauper business, .....	15 50

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\$234 75

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid John Fisher, interest on note, .....	\$12 00
C. V. Dearborn, cost of suit vs- F. R. Talbot, ....	8 74
M. G. Starrett expense printing town reports, 1859,	21 25
Geo. H. Stevens for roof blinds and vane of meeting house, .....	12 50
Calvin Lord over assessment on taxes, .....	2 08
S. L. Felch note and interest, .....	27 47
I. Batchelder for cash paid David Banks services on town farm, 1858-9, .....	220 00
Wm. Bixhy note and interest, .....	332 05
John Fisher interest on note, .....	18 00
Jane McLane note and interest, .....	60 00
Wm. Bixby interest on Woodbury fund, .....	60 00
John Goney note and interest, .....	107 87
John Gregg for damages on highway, .....	8 00
I. Batchelder for repairing hearse and other ex- penses, .....	1 13
I. Batchelder for expenses to Amherst to get weights and measures sealed, and paid for sealing the same, and for stationery, \$1.00, .....	4 13
Moses W. Eaton loss on hay by defect in road, ....	3 00
Luke W. Preston for repairing hearse bell and grate for stove, .....	2 00
S. D. Downs for money paid for certificates of births,	75
Wm. Butterfield for painting guide boards, .....	3 00
John Fisher interest on note, .....	12 00
George D. Farnum for ringing bell, digging and fill- ing graves, and 2 shovels, .....	41 75
Wm. Bixby interest on literary fund, .....	13 92
N. Farnum for over assessment on Cha's Whitney's taxes, \$1.66 ; do Patrick Foot, \$1.66, and abate- ment of John Foot's jr., by his request, .....	4 98



P. H. Bixby for book record, .....	42
I. Batchelder for cash paid deputy sheriff for serving notices on the town of Deering, .....	5 34
I. Batchelder interest on note, .....	197 85
C. V. Dearborn for services in arresting L. Morse, ..	4 00
W. H. Johnson for cleaning town house and for lighting and warming same for school commis- sioner, .....	2 75
Wm. H. Farnum for sundry bills paid by him, ....	2 25
Hiram P. Clark for books and stationery, .....	3 75
do do for guide boards and posts, .....	3 87
do do for use of rooms &c. for town busi- ness, .....	3 18
Daniel Ordway for damages on the highway, .....	20 00
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	\$1,220 03

#### SERVICES TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Wm. Bixby services Town Treasurer, .....	\$10 00
Hiram P. Clark, services Selectman, .....	43 90
David Butterfield, " " .....	27 27
Wm. H. Farnum, " " .....	38 00
Samuel D. Downs, Town Clerk, .....	14 00
I. Batchelder, Overseer of Poor, .....	15 75
do Agent Town Farm, .....	10 00
Nahum Farnum, Collecting Taxes, .....	41 25
P. H. Bixby, Auditor, ....	1 50
M. G. Starrett, do .....	1 50
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	\$203 17

Total amount of disbursements, .....	\$3,338 06
Whole amount of receipts, .....	\$3,897 95
Whole amount of disbursements, .....	3,338 06
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Balance in hands of the Treasurer, .....	\$559 89

## STATEMENT.

Debts due sundry persons on notes, from the town with interest to March 8th, 1860, .....	\$5,635 74
Balance in the Treasury out, .....	559 89

Leaving town in debt, .....

\$5,075 90

The foregoing accounts are correctly cast and duly vouched.

PAUL H. BIXBY, }  
M. G. STARRETT, } *Accountants.*

## REPORT OF THE AGENT OF THE TOWN FARM.

### REPORT OF AGENT OF TOWN FARM.

Israel Batchelder, Agent for the town farm, reports as follows, viz :

Said farm in account,.....	Dr.	
To cost of farm.....		\$2,664 38
Amount of stock as appraised last year,....	\$486 00	
of hay and straw,.....	127 00	
of farming tools,.....	95 30	
of miscellaneous articles, ...	42 67	
of provisions,.....	230 48	
of household furniture,.....	147 49	1,128 94
of interest on farm,.....		159 86
There will be due Russell Dustin, April 1,		
1860, for his services,.....		200 00
Agent's services,.....		10 00
		<hr/>
		\$4,163 18
Appraisal of property, Feb. 18, 1860	Cr.	
By farm, .....		\$2,664 38

### LIVE STOCK.

2 oxen \$130,00, 6 cows 166,00,.....	\$296 00	
1 three year old heifer,.....	25 00	
5 two year old cattle,.....	75 00	
1 calf 8,00, 12 sheep 25,00,.....	33 00	
1 horse 60,00, 8 fowls 2,50,.....	62 50	
2 swine,.....	20 00	—\$511 50

### HAY AND FODDER.

16 tons hay, .....	\$208 00	
Lot straw,.....	2 00	—\$210 00

### FARMING TOOLS.

1 ox cart,.....	\$20 00	
1 wagon and harness,.....	15 00	
1 sleigh and wheelbarrow,.....	5 00	
1 harrow \$2,50, 4 plows 19,00,.....	21 50	
1 cultivator 3,00, 2 ox sleds 4,00,.....	7 00	
3 yokes 3,00, 3 chains 3,75,.....	6 75	
2 iron bars, 2,00.....	2 00	
1 whiffletree and chain 1,00,.....	1 00	



2 shovels 50 cts., 2 manure forks 1,00.....	1 50	
4 hoes 50 cts., 3 scythes and sneaths 3,00..	3 50	
1 bush scythe 50 cts., 1 horse rake 4,00....	4 50	
1 hand rake, 4 small do.....	1 00	
4 hay forks,.....	1 50	
3 axes 2,00, 1 beetle and wedges 1,00.....	3 00	
Carpenters tools,.....	2 00	
2 wood saws 1,00, 1 grind stone 2,50.....	3 50	\$98 75

## PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

46 bush. corn \$52,00, 39 bush. wheat 50,00	\$102 00	
2 bush.. beans 3,00, 1-2 bush. pease, 75....	3 75	
175 bush. potatoes,.....	52 50	
13 bush. turnips and carrots,.....	3 00	
Lot vegetables,.....	1 25	
200 lbs. salt pork,.....	25 00	
175 lbs. salt beef,...	12 75	
125 lbs. Hams,.....	13 50	
Sausages and fresh beef,.....	3 00	
48 lbs. butter 9,60, 125 lbs cheese 12,00...	21 60	
45 lbs. lard 6,30, 16 lbs. tallow 1,60, . . .	7 90	
16 lbs. candles 2,25, 20 lbs. dried apple 1,60,	3 85	
Meal and flour,.....	3 25	\$253 35

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

2-3 bbl soap,.....	\$2 50	
Lot soap and grease,.....	1 00	
13 1-2 lbs, woolen yarn,.....	13 50	
6 pairs of feeting,....	2 40	
Groceries,.....	2 75	
Grass seed,.....	3 50	
6 bunches shingles,.....	6 00	
Plank and boards,....	5 00	36 65
Household furniture,....		147 49
Cash in agent's hands for articles sold from the farm,.....		54 44
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		\$3,976 56

*Schedule of articles sold from the farm, with the amount received  
for the same, during the year ending Feb. 18, 1860.*

68 3-4 lbs wool \$27,92, 11 bush. corn 11,12	\$39 04
119 lbs. beef 7,73, 276 lbs. veal 16 59,....	24 32
124 lbs. pork 6,89, 23 lbs. poultry 1,98,...	8 87
69 lbs. hides 4,14, 46 lbs. hams 5,75,.....	9 89
412 lbs. butter,.....	84 88
34 lbs. " on hand last year,.....	7 48
1 calf 6,00, 5 pigs 10,00,.....	16 00
3 lambs 5,17, 7 sheep 6,75, . . . . .	11 92
4 calf skins 3,00, 1 sheep's pelt 75,.....	3 75
15 1-4 bushels potatoes,.....	4 91

37 1-2 dozen eggs,.....	6 04
Lot straw, .....	1 05
20 pairs feetings,.....	8 27
Received for keeping sheep,.....	8 25
“ “ use of horse,.....	16 12
Sundry articles sold by Mr. Dustin from farm,.....	11 36
Sold by myself, do.....	3 16—\$265 31

Which is accounted for as follows :

Paid for 4 bush. wheat \$7,87, 3 1-2 bushels	
Rye 3,74,.....	11 61
1 cow 36,00, 3 yearling cattle 31,00,	67 00
Blacksmith's bill for work,.....	9 14
Shoe bill 7,22, store bill 36,92 ....	44 14
Clover seed and haying tools,....	5 23
Pump and pipe to carry water into the house,....	23 62
Thrashing grain,.....	3 75
Saw bill, 1858,.....	1 70
Carding wool,.....	2 64
Sundry small bills,.....	5 86
Advertising,.....	75
Extra labor,.....	21 05
Sawing shingles,.....	50
Repairs on buildings,.....	2 35
Putting in pump,.....	1 33
Mason work,.....	1 75
Repairing carts,.....	75
Insurance assessment on buildings,..	6 30
Deering tax. (town of).....	40
4 butter firkins.....	1 00—\$210 87
Cash in hands of Agent,.....	54 44

\$265 31

The whole number of paupers who have been supported on the Farm, is five. The whole expense of supporting paupers on the Farm, according to this report, is \$186 62, being \$205 60 less than last year. The support of paupers off the Farm, as will be seen by the annexed Town Report, is \$205 92, making a total of \$392 55 for the support of Town paupers during the past year, — \$232 06 less than last year.

ISRAEL BATCHELDER,

*Agent for the Pauper Farm.*

## REPORT OF THE AGENT FOR SELLING LIQUOR.

*Wm. H. Johnson, Agent, in Account with the town of Francestown  
for the year ending February 16, 1860.*

Dr.

To Cash received for Liquor sold as follows:

208 gallons Rum,.....	\$116 57
56 1-2 gallons Alcohol, ... ..	58 65
30 7-16 " Gin, ....	45 28
5 1-2 " Brandy, .....	29 62
6 1-2 " Bourbon Whiskey, ..	16 64
1-4 " Cherry Brandy, ....	64
2 3-4 " Port Wine, .....	7 50
Lot of Casks sold, ... ..	5 62
	\$280 52

Cr.

By 227 1-2 gallons Rum, purchased at sundry,

times, as per bills, ..... 84 03

82 gallons Alcohol, ..... 53 80

26 " Gin, ..... 28 22

2 " Bourbon Whiskey, .... 5 00

Freight and Express on same,..... 8 88

Casks for do.,..... 1 85

Trucking do.,..... 1 37

Paid for book and stationery, .... 25

Expense, purchasing, ..... 5 00

Agent's Salary one year, ..... 41 66

\$230 06

Balance due the Town from Agent,.... 50 46

\$280 52

There were on hand, at the commencement of the year, the following Liquors belonging to the Town :

42 gallons Rum,..... \$16 80

12 " Alcohol,..... 7 80

15 3-4 gallons Gin, ..... 15 75

5 1-4 " Bourbon Whiskey, ..... 10 50

9 7-16 " Brandy, ..... 40 10

3 3-4 " Cherry Brandy, .... 7 50

7 3-8 " Whiskey, ..... 11 06



7 3-16	"	Port Wine,.....	19 52	
		Freight on same,.....	2 70	
		Lot of Casks, .....	8 00	
		Measures, Faucets, &c., ..	2 00	
				<hr/> \$141 73

There are now on hand, Liquors belonging to the  
Town as follows :

53	gallons	Rum,.....	19 61	
10	1-8	gallons Gin,.....	10 87	
32	"	Alcohol,.....	20 80	
2	11-14	" Brandy... ..	11 42	
	3-8	" Bourbon Whiskey, .....	93	
3	1-2	" Cherry Brandy,.....	7 00	
7	3-8	" Whiskey,.....	11 06	
4	1-4	" Port Wine, .....	10 62	
		Lot Casks,.....	6 00	
		Freight on same,.....	4 31	
		Measures, Faucets, &c., .....	2 00	
				<hr/> 104 62
		Loss on stock,.....	37 11	
				<hr/> \$141 73

#### PROFIT AND LOSS.

Amount due from Town Agent, .....	\$50 46
Amount of Loss on stock, .....	37 11
	<hr/>
Amount of gain to the town,.....	\$13 35
Whole number sales, .....	1355
For mechanical and chemical purposes,.....	84
For medicinal and all other purposes,.....	1271
	W. H. JOHNSON

*State of New Hampshire.*

Hillsborough, ss, February 28, 1860.

Personally appeared the above named W. H. Johnson, and made oath that the foregoing statement by him signed, is according to the best of his knowledge and belief true.

Before me,

PAUL H. BIXBY, Justice of the Peace.

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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In accordance with Legislative enactments and the just expectations of the town, the Superintending School Committee of Frances-town would again present his annual report of the state of the schools in said town.

Agreeably to requirements, we have visited every school, at least twice during each term, and as opportunity presented, endeavored to do our utmost to induce scholars to be punctual, studious and of good deportment. In cases where we deemed it necessary, teachers have had the friendly advice, in regard to governing and imparting instruction. Parents, too, have been consulted and advised. How much the various school's have profited by our presence and precepts, and how faithfully we have discharged our duty, we leave for you, fellow citizens, to judge.

We subjoin a few remarks relative to the condition of each school.

### DISTRICT No. 1.

ELIAS A. WILSON, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 16. Average attendance, 12. Wages of teacher, per month, \$12. Sarah E. Emerson commenced her labors of teaching in this district, and succeeded so as to satisfy the most sanguine hopes of all concerned. Some of the best readers, of their age, in town, are here found. Scholars were interested in their studies and appeared well. At the closing examination, there was an exhibition of water works, over which the teacher had no control, showing the blessings of No. 1, in having pure water and a tight roof. Children could not here sing, with impunity, "Patter, patter, let it pour."

WINTER TERM. Length, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 19. Average, 14 1-2. Wages of teacher, \$16, per month. Florence A. Dodge, Teacher. Text, John 1: 46. "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Come and see." Circumstances considered, the school made as much improvement as any reasonable person could expect. At the beginning, the middle, and the close of the school, the order was excellent. The teacher was imbued with the right spirit of teaching; but for all this, as is almost always the case *somewhere*, some *little* disturbance arose, which by

magnifying made quite an item. Perhaps the teacher used quite as much authority as was warrantable,—but, be this as it may, some scholars and some parents did not act the better part. Parents should be less jealous of one another, and more jealous of their good name and the welfare of their children. The school is rather backward, but stands high when compared with the hovel in which they assemble. “Oh! better that her shattered hulk should sink beneath the wave.”

### DISTRICT No. 2.

ELIJAH TOWLE, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 12. Average, 9. Wages per month, \$8. Sarah J. Towle commenced teaching on her native hill. The scholars appeared to understand their studies well, and made considerable improvement; but were very irregular in their attendance. The order was a little below “par,” the teacher, from the kindness of her heart, being a little too indulgent.

WINTER TERM. Length, 10½ weeks. Whole number of scholars, 21. Average, 18½. Wages per month, \$18. Sara F. Bickford of Hillsborough, Teacher. Miss B. having taught the school the preceding winter, was well prepared to commence her labors again. The teacher was successful in gaining the good will of her pupils and making the term profitable. Classes in Mental Arithmetic excelled: The spelling, if we rightly judge, was a little deficient. Examination was too long. *Enough* is as good as *more*.

The day of examination being one of those bleak ones, which tries such stately temples as No. 2 boasts, where ventilation from underneath is abundant—

“Then and there was hurrying to and fro,  
And gathering tears and tremblings of distress,”  
And feet all cold, which, but an hour ago,  
Were warm enough for our own happiness.  
Too bad, too bad it is.

### DISTRICT No. 3.

KIMBALL W. EMERSON, Prudential Committee.

Agreeable to a petition of a good share of the voters of the District, the school was divided; the larger scholars occupying the upper floor of the brick schoolhouse; and that the experiment worked to a charm, no person who was present at the closing examinations, will deny. Mary J. Colburn, of New Boston, whose success the previous summer was a sure guaranty to prosperity, was engaged for the larger department. After teaching one week, Miss C. was obliged to relinquish the school. If the scholars were unfortunate in losing so good a teacher as Miss C., they may account themselves *very* fortunate in the substitute, Alice M. Kingsbury, who guided them through the term with much credit. The order was good—the scholars thorough—no particular branch excelled, but all bore evidence to the right kind of teaching. Length of school, 14 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 20. Average, 17. Wages of teacher, per month, \$13.



## PRIMARY.

Florence A. Dodge had charge of the juvenile department.— Words of mine can but poorly express the perfect regularity with which everything connected with this little band was conducted. A nice teacher, nicely teaching a nice lot of nice scholars, discoursing nice music, (I being judge) all tending to promote nice order, and interest a nice company of spectators. Whole number of scholars, 27. Average, 23½. Length of School, 14 weeks. Wages, per month, \$10.70. Verdict: "And we saw that it was all very good."

WINTER TERM.—Length, 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 50. Average, 42. Wages, per month, \$33. Agreeable to a vote of the District, 13 scholars were selected and placed under the care of Dr. M. N. Root, of the Academy. In this school, composed of 50 Scholars, nearly all of the same size, (7 by 9) there was much work to be done; and the district was fortunate in finding, in the person of Geo. C. Patten, of Deering, a man ample for the task. In this school, a teacher with but little patience and courage, would be pretty likely to find himself in the same predicament as the old woman who lived in the shoe. Mr. Patten is an experienced teacher, and not afraid to labor, and labors not merely for a few dollars and cents, but for the scholars' good. The chief difficulty in this school, is inattention. Scholars here would much rather apply to their teacher to solve a problem, than to tax their own intellects.— If they would study, and learn to think, it would be much to their advantage.

We would again suggest to the members of this district, the propriety of refitting the upper room of their school-house, and supporting two schools both Summer and Winter. We would not wish to detract one iota of the interest which any one may feel in the Academy; but, whether the good of the Academy should be paramount to the best interests of the District, is a question for yourselves to decide.

## DISTRICT No. 4.

WILLIAM STANLEY, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 16. Average, 14. Wages, per month, \$12. The Summer Term, under the charge of Morgianna L. Hardy, showed that the teacher had been assiduous in the discharge of her duties, and faithful in the application of the qualifications for teaching which she possesses.— Almost all branches taught in common schools and academies, were here successfully taught. Music extra.

WINTER TERM.—Length, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 22. Average, 19 1-2. Wages, per month, \$16. Morgianna L. Hardy, teacher of the Summer school, continued her labors through the Winter. The teaching was thorough and practical, scholars punctual and the term a profitable one. At the examination, the teacher and scholars labored under some disadvantages. Four scholars, who had attended school nearly every day during the term, and who should, from their age, be gentlemen, and give character and interest to a school and examination, for some very foolish reasons, if

any, absented themselves from school, on the last half day. No disaffection between them and the teacher, was the cause of their absence ; yet, young gentlemen, (I fear the name ill becomes you) the very act is anything but gentlemanly towards your teacher, and stamps the name of *shame* upon your very selves.

It reminds us of the fable of the farmer and the snake ; the moral of which is : "we see what reward the wicked are accustomed to render for favors received." Parents who countenance such acts, if any there are, can consider it nought but a disgrace upon manhood, and every time they encourage such conduct, are but giving their sons an additional step towards the Shire-town, thence to the Capital.— We hope never to record the like again.

#### DISTRICT No. 5.

MARK PETTEE, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 25. Average, 21. Wages, per month, \$16. The school was commenced by Martha Ober, of Amherst, whose entire success, the previous Summer, promised a profitable school and a happy termination ; but disappointment is the lot of all mankind. After teaching three weeks, vacations being far too numerous for the good of the school, ill-health obliged her to leave. Augusta M. Vose was hired to fill the vacancy ; and a hard place it was to fill. The scholars thinking that nobody *could* teach school but Miss Ober, the teacher did not have so much of their sympathy as is desirable. The order was quite good ; she exerted herself to the utmost to interest her pupils and have them improve ; but the advancement for the term was not such as to merit our hearty approbation.

WINTER TERM.—Length, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 30. Average, 27 1-2. Wages, per month, \$32. A *Pettie* pedagogue looked after the interests of the rising generation, in this District. Scholars were very punctual. Parents were very careful that their children should "come to time," and, likewise, like too many other good people, *exceedingly* careful not to annoy either teacher or scholars, by their presence, examination excepted. We think scholars learned to read and spell *some* ; but the teacher, being near akin to us, and some dozen kind teachers eager to scrutinize the report of No. 5, we will not praise him too highly, lest they complain of partiality, but leave those interested to judge.

#### DISTRICT No. 6.

WILLIAM P. TERREN, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 17. Average, 13 1-2. Wages, per month, \$12.80. Clara A. Sawyer, teacher. This school made a good degree of improvement, and showed a lively interest in their studies. Scholars would have appeared to better advantage, had there been a little more regularity in the school-room.

WINTER TERM.—The same teacher continued her services through the Winter. Length, 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 22. Average, 14 1-4. Wages, per month, \$15.80. The principal char-

acteristic of this school is irregularity. Scholars here are always on hand for good or evil ; and would that some of the parents were enough on hand to see that their children were at school, at least, one half of the time. Never can there be a good school in No. 6, till there is a change in this respect, have what teacher they may. The teacher strove for the good of the whole school, and those who attended regularly did well ; but there was not co-operation enough on the part of the parents to attain the greatest good. The order was not quite to the mark, for a small school. If some of the parents would visit their school and see for themselves, it would put things to rights, much better than to believe every flying rumor they hear from their little ones, and then publish the news that the school is good for nothing. Here, some complain of hard usage ; others, of no order ; and it would puzzle the best of committees to find a teacher in Christendom, who would suit one half of them.

#### DISTRICT No. 7.

WILLIAM COCHRAN, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 24. Average, 22 3-4. Wages, per month, \$8, exclusive of board. Teacher, Martha S. Noyes, of Bow. Miss Noyes having taught the school the previous term, both teacher and scholars were prepared to commence duty at once, without introductory exercises. The scholars were more punctual than at any other school in town, for which parents deserve much praise. The teacher labored with fidelity, and the scholars made good improvement. The deportment of some of the larger members of the school was a little on the decline from the previous winter, owing, as we believe, to a want of harmony between one another.

WINTER TERM.—Length, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 28. Average, 26 1-4. Wages, per month, \$17. Abbie S. Southard, of Lyme, taught this school, who possessed the qualifications requisite for a good teacher. This is one of the largest and best schools in town. The teacher labored for the good of those under her care, and, we trust, they appreciated her labors. We think pupils would have appeared to better advantage, had the exercises been conducted on less simultaneous principles. If there was more unity of feeling, more self-respect and respect for companions, the school would be more pleasant. "Union is strength."

#### DISTRICT No. 8.

DAVID MANAHAN, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 7. Average, 6 2-3. Wages, per month, \$6. This school was taught by a member of the district, Orrin J. Manahan. This was his first attempt, and although it is not *always* advisable for a beginner to commence in his own district, yet, the scholars appeared as well as under the charge of any other teacher. Mr. M. was active, and well discharged his duty.



WINTER TERM.—Length, 13 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 9. Average, 7 1-3. Wages, per month, \$17. Orrin J. Manahan conducted the Winter Term in a manner to merit our approbation. Although the number was small, and the scholars not very large, yet, by their prompt answers, showed that they were interested in their studies. A very good little school.

#### DISTRICT No. 9.

EDWIN BLANCHARD, Prudential Committee.

Length of School, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 18.—Average, 12 1-2. Wages, per month, \$12. Only one term in this district during the year, and that commencing the first of September, under the instruction of an efficient teacher, Caroline L. Patch, who having previously got the exact hang of that “peculiar institution,” the school-house, as well as the scholars, had nothing to do but to progress. Nearly as many districts were here represented as there were scholars, and both teacher and pupils so acquitted themselves as to do honor to No. 9.

#### DISTRICT No. 10.

PHINEAS C. KIDDER, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer School, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 13, 8 of which belong to Francestown, and 5 to Lyndeborough. Average, 11 1-3. Wages, per month, \$14. Sarah L. Cochran, of New Boston, Teacher. Miss C. having had charge of the school a previous term, knew just how to make the children realize the most from her labors. She devoted herself wholly to her work, and, we believe, all appreciated the value of good teaching.

WINTER TERM.—Length, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 20 ; 14 from Francestown, 6 from Lyndeborough. Average, 16 1-6. Frances M. Fiske, of Lyndeborough, taught the winter term, to general approval. The closing examination evinced good skill on the part of the teacher, and application of most of the scholars. A few of the larger boys are, at least, one year older than we before reported. Here are some excellent intellects, boys of good understanding, who, with a slight metamorphosing, would make first class scholars, and grow up respected citizens ; but, be careful, lest “you grow wiser than your fathers are,” *i. e.*, in your own estimation.

#### DISTRICT No. 11.

EPHRAIM MORGAN, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 11 weeks. Whole number of scholars 9. Average, 8 1-4. Wages, per month, \$12. Here, in this sequestered spot, Susan M. Sawyer commenced the delightful task of teaching the young ideas. The school was small, but active. The teacher drilled them *well* upon the solid branches. “Read and, spell—then spell and read.” A few more scholars would make the school more pleasant to all concerned.

WINTER TERM.—Length, 12 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 14. Average, 13 1-5. Wages, per month, \$16. Addie M. Har-

dy taught this school so as to fully sustain her reputation as a successful instructor. We found good order, good scholars who well understood themselves, and also a miserable school-house. The day of the closing examination was a good one to illustrate the importance of *location* and *ventilation*; and, if the spectators did not wish their *shell* somewhere else, then, either by nature or practice, they have better dispositions than myself. Not all the "cut and split" of No. 11 could make us comfortable; but, all assembled were in the condition of the man that went "shivery, shivery, shake, and couldn't keep warm." Citizens of No. 11, can you not do something to better the condition of your children? Sink the old unseaworthy, and build a new one in a better place.

#### DISTRICT No. 12.

ADONIRAM DODGE, Prudential Committee.

Length of Summer Term, 10 weeks. Whole number of scholars, 8. Average, 7 1-2. Wages, per month, \$12. This is a union district, 4 scholars hailing from New Boston, and 4 from Frances-town. Lucia Cutter governed and taught this school in a satisfactory manner. The closing exercises spoke well for teacher and taught.

WINTER TERM.—Whole number of scholars, 13, 7 belonging to New Boston, and 6 to Frances-town. Average, 11. Wages, per month, \$16.80. Sarah L. Cochran, of New Boston, truly taught this school. There was but a handful of scholars, but they were thorough and well-trained. Miss C. more than sustained the good reputation which she earned in No. 10. I would talk to the good people of No. 12 about their school-house, and tell them if they wish to have their house correspond to the state of their school, they should erect a new one, if I did not know they all knew this much better than myself. As it is located in New Boston, perhaps, for the present, my remarks had better be confined to Jerusalem.

24 Schools have been in session during the past year, 13 Summer, and 11 Winter, affording 272 weeks of instruction, 144 Summer, and 158 Winter. The whole number attending Summer schools was 206. Attending Winter, 248.

The income of the "Woodbury Fund" has been appropriated to its legitimate use. 142 books have been distributed throughout the various districts, according to the best judgment of the Selectmen and School Committee. That these books have been the means of doing *great* good, and that they have *always* fallen into the right hands, is more than we would say; but, that we have endeavored to be *impartial*, is nothing but truth.

We think writing, notwithstanding the insinuation of our good Commissioner to the contrary, has been successfully taught in our schools the past year. We have urged upon teacher and scholars the necessity of acquiring a good hand-writing; and in every school in town, nearly every scholar of sufficient age has attended to this branch, and made proficiency. We have generally had teachers who were competent to teach those over whom they had charge.

A word relative to the conducting of examinations may not be amiss. As the time assigned for the semi-annual occasions is somewhat limited, and as everything cannot be crowded into the short space of one half day, and, as it is our object to ascertain how much real improvement pupils have made, we would think best to curtail the exhibition part, so as to give due time to the varied branches.—We do not, in the least, discourage the practice of compositions and declamations, for we believe them highly important exercises, but, when interspersed with recitations, teachers should have due regard to *originality* and *brevity*.

We have thus briefly commented upon the condition of our schools; and in doing this, we do not address you as one who has long since thrown off the "Pedagogical harness," considering himself at perfect liberty to attack teachers, parents and pupils, with a long list of grievances and duties, such as never by ourselves was practiced, but talk plainly to you as one who, at no very remote day, was *there*; talk of nothing but that we believe, and trust we practice.

The humble position which the teacher of our public schools occupies is a far more responsible station than most people are inclined to imagine. To guide the youthful feet in the paths of usefulness, and to awaken thought in their minds, is but a *part* of their work. Various are the opinions entertained in regard to the teacher's sphere. Some think the teacher a kind of gentleman or lady at large, getting speedily rich upon *their* hard earnings; nothing to do but to while away the six short hours by walking the school-room, maintaining dignity, and perfectly free from care and anxiety. Now, where is the teacher, if they possess one spark of the true spirit, but that always finds enough to do? Where is the teacher, who is not obedient to the call of the "a-b-c-darian," as well as those of a larger growth? Servants to pupils and parents, and, in many cases, a perfect target mark for the community to fire at; and fortunate he who stands the test, and comes off unscathed.

Children of the schools of Francestown; it is for *you* that parents and teachers labor; 'tis that you should grow up ornaments to society, and a blessing to your generation. Your future usefulness depends upon the manner in which you improve your school days. Remember, if you would become great and learned, you must labor and think, for, from exertion only, comes that which is of value.—If education is worth having, it is worth toiling for. 'Tis no easy road to fame. Show respect to all, not from *fear*, but from a sense of right and duty.

Parents, you have your mission in this common school enterprise, and, I am happy to say, you have done your work nobly; your good deeds bearing ample testimony of the interest you feel in this subject. To feed, to clothe, to furnish with suitable books and other *et ceteras*, require a continual draft upon you; but this is not all.—You need to train your children to habits of obedience and punctuality—to encourage them in their daily tasks—to teach them to place confidence in their teacher, thereby strengthening *their* hands



and encouraging their hearts to labor more ardently for the good of your children. You should look with an eye of compassion upon the teacher, remembering that they are but poor human beings, and like all of mother Eve's children, liable to err.

In our last report, we lectured somewhat at length upon the condition of our school-houses. Now, we regret to say, they are no better : unless we take into consideration the fact that they are one year nearer their demolition. To be sure, No. 9, on the "heights," has renewed its exterior by the shingle and door ; and No. 2 has made its entrance a little more comely by the hanging of a new door. For these acts we will not praise you, for, "new wine should be put into new bottles." They say "ministers should not cease to preach as long as there are sinners to be converted ;" and why should we cease to sermonize, while people are so reckless to the best interests of their children ? Although nothing has been done the past year to improve the condition of our school-houses, still, we believe "there's a good time coming," when the name of old Francestown shall not be thus defamed by the presence of such wretched looking edifices ; when the children shall have far better quarters in which to pass their joyous days ; when a far brighter picture shall be painted upon the minds of the rising generation than these old, uncomely, uncomfortable school-houses, wherein the principal objects of thought are hard benches, cold feet, and a longing desire to be anywhere but in such a school-room. We all, as individuals, and a town, love a good reputation. Public edifices are an index of the thrift, intelligence and morals of a people. And, next to the sanctuary of religion, as an index of public regard to the best interests of society, are the more humble school-houses of every New England town.—Judged by this indication, what think you of Francestown ? We leave this for your solution.

While we would congratulate the citizens of Francestown upon the success of her schools, we would bespeak for them additional attention and regard. It is the serious conviction of your Committee, made more impressive by every item of experience in discharge of his official duty, that the town has no interest, its moral and religious welfare excepted, that can bear comparison with the intellectual training of its youth. Considerations numberless, magnify its importance to us as a community. "Knowledge is power." If parents or citizens would hope for good character in those to whom they are soon to transmit their privileges and possessions, let them give heed to the common schools. While we would say of the schools, the past year, "well done," we would also say *advance*. The understanding of a few common principles of knowledge, which once constituted a fair education, leave a young man far behind his age, at this day. And to advance the interests of education, your Committee and teachers must be countenanced and aided by the influence and continued efforts of every parent and citizen. Parents should become identified with the interests of their children by visiting their schools repeatedly, besides, having familiarity with their intellectual pursuits at home. Other considerations press upon us

terests which have been committed to our hands have not suffered by our incapacity or neglect. We have an ardent wish for improvement, and for that do we labor. If, in any of our remarks, we have advanced views, which do not meet the approval of citizens, teachers or pupils, we beg you to remember that we are not reporting to please the ear of those who are fond of aggrandizement, but penning *our honest convictions*, therefore let all blame be attributed to no one but

GEO. F. PETTEE, *Super. School Com.*

FRANCESTOWN, Feb. 28, 1860.





